



STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
LANSING




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PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

MEMORANDUM

TO: Local and Intermediate School District Superintendents, Public School Academy Superintendents, Public Universities and Community Colleges, Public School Academy Authorizers and Other Interested Parties

FROM: Mike Flanagan, Superintendent of Public Instruction 

DATE: July 19, 2007

SUBJECT: Announcement of the 2007-2008 Charter School Planning/Implementation Grant Program

The Michigan Department of Education (MDE) was successful in receiving a grant, under the United States Department of Education Public Charter Schools Program, for \$21,673,806 over a three-year period, including \$5,871,482 for the 2007-2008 school year. Of that amount, **\$1,120,000** will be used to support public school academy (PSA) developers **currently working with an authorizer to negotiate a contract for a school scheduled to open by fall, 2008**. The competitive grant awards can be up to \$160,000 in planning expenses, and successful completion of the planning grant qualifies the PSA to apply for further first and second year implementation funding of \$150,000 annually.

Applications for this first round of competitive 2007-2008 Charter School Planning/Implementation Grant Program funding will be posted on the MDE's website (www.michigan.gov/charters) on July 19, 2007. An informational meeting for eligible grant applicants will be held at the Henry Ford Academy (20900 Oakwood Blvd., Dearborn, MI 48121) on July 27, 2007. Please call the Public School Academy number noted below for specific time and room number. The deadline for application is August 16, 2007. The applications will be available and must be submitted through the *Michigan Electronic Grants System (MEGS)*.

Additional 2007-2008 funds will be made available during a future second round competitive grant process, during which applications will be available in October for

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submission by a January 2008 deadline, working toward a March 2008 award date. There will be two types of applications accepted at that time:

- A second round of up to \$2,550,000 in 2007-2008 Planning/Implementation Grant funds will be available to **earlier stage PSA developers who are preparing an application, but have not yet been invited by an authorizer to prepare a phase-two application or negotiate a contract.** These competitive grant awards will also be up to \$160,000 in planning expenses over an eighteen month time frame, and successful completion of the planning grant, along with acquisition of a charter, will qualify the PSA to apply for further first and second year implementation funding of \$150,000 annually.
- Ten percent of the 2007-2008 federal award (\$587,000) will be available to charter schools that have **not already received a Dissemination Grant**, have been in operation for at least three (3) consecutive years (i.e., are currently in their fourth year of operation, or longer), and wish to propose activities to accomplish one of the following purposes:
 - Research/Evaluation of demonstrated powerful practices.
 - Mentoring of a design team for a PSA that is not yet open.
 - Coaching an existing PSA proposing to open a high school.

The MDE will retain five percent of the grant award (\$293,000) for administration, and another \$1,350,000 will be used for continuation grants for previous planning grantees.

Questions regarding the Charter School Grant should be directed to the Office of School Improvement, Public School Academy Program, at 517-373-4631.